



**Board of Governors
of
The State Bar of California**

Standing Resolution

**RECOGNIZING THE THIRD WEEK OF MARCH AS
Mediation Week**

Whereas mediation is a dispute resolution process in which a neutral third person facilitates communication between the parties to a dispute to help them reach a mutually acceptable agreement;

Whereas for decades, California community dispute resolution organizations have used mediation to resolve countless disputes and have been instrumental in the development and operation of mediation programs;

Whereas during the past several decades, California trial and appellate courts have increasingly encouraged, offered, and provided mediation to assist litigants in resolving a broad array of disputes filed with the courts, including civil, family, juvenile, and criminal matters;

Whereas mediation offers many potential benefits to litigants, the courts, and the public, including increasing participants' satisfaction with the dispute resolution process and outcome, while reducing court filings, pretrial motions and trials, the time from the filing of an action to disposition, court workloads, litigants' costs, future disputes between the parties, and recidivism;

Whereas the availability and success of court mediation programs are largely attributable to the efforts of judicial officers, court staff, and justice partners, including community dispute resolution organizations, local government agencies, state and local bar associations, mediation organizations, and individual mediators, many of whom contribute significant time and resources toward conducting mediations;

Whereas widespread public awareness of the nature, availability, and benefits of mediation and court mediation programs is important to ensuring the use of these programs and access to justice; and

Whereas the Governor and other California state and local officials and agencies have traditionally recognized the third week of March as Mediation Week;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California recognizes the third week of every March as Mediation Week, commends the efforts of the individuals and organizations that make mediation and mediation programs available to the citizens of California, and encourages local bar associations to recognize those individuals and organizations, and publicize local mediation programs during Mediation Week.

Adopted by the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California on March 6, 2010.